

Gina Renee Designs

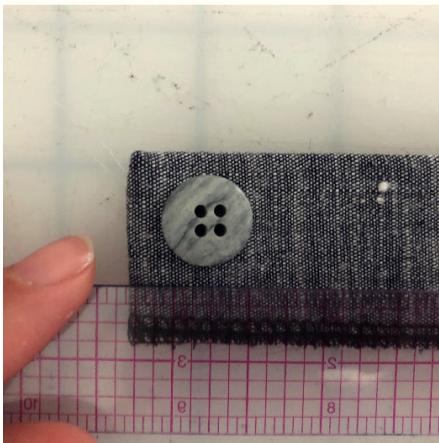
FASHIONABLE SEWING PATTERNS

Buttonhole and Button Tutorial

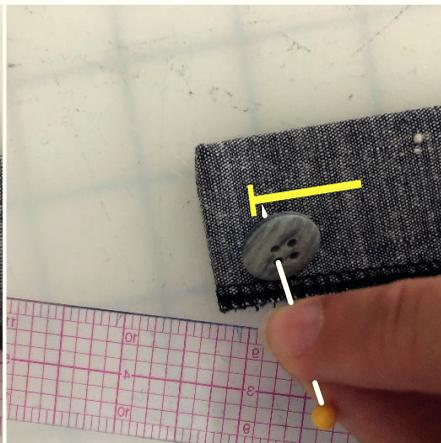
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ALWAYS IRON ON INTERLINING (FUSIBLE) TO THE BACK SIDE OF OF FABRIC WHERE THE BUTTONHOLES AND BUTTONS WILL GO. THIS ALLOWS FOR MORE STABILITY AND MAKES THE BUTTONHOLES/BUTTONS MORE DURABLE (AND IT LOOKS MORE PROFESSIONAL!) SKIP TO THE LAST PAGE IF YOU ONLY NEED TO SEE HOW TO SEW A BUTTON ON BY HAND.

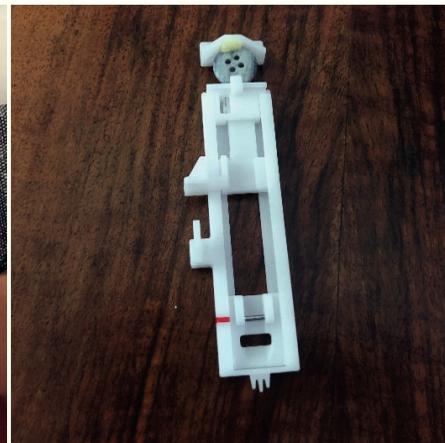
HOW TO SEW BUTTONHOLES ~ WITH A STANDARD MODERN BUTTONHOLE PRESSER FOOT



Step 1: Place the button where you would like it to be in order to determine your buttonhole position. It should be about 1/8" away from any edges. (consider seam allowances: the ruler here removes the visual of my seam allowance on the placket)



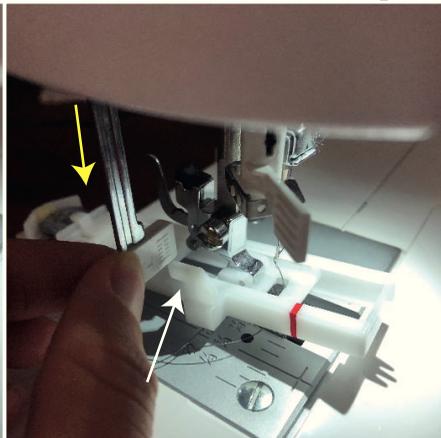
Step 2: Poke a pin in the top hole of the button, move the button and mark just above this as the top of the buttonhole. Mark the buttonhole. The length of buttonhole will be 1/8" longer than your button width. I mark just like this and the buttonhole foot determines the length.



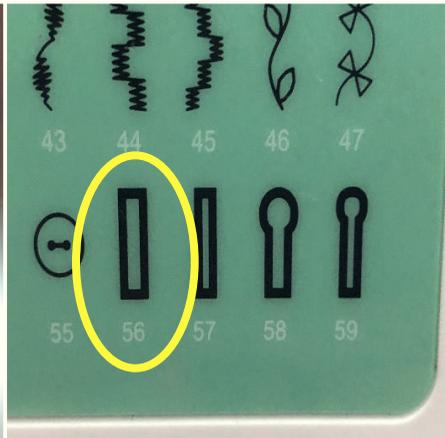
Step 3: Place the button in the buttonhole foot (you'll slide the foot to make the button stay in place.)



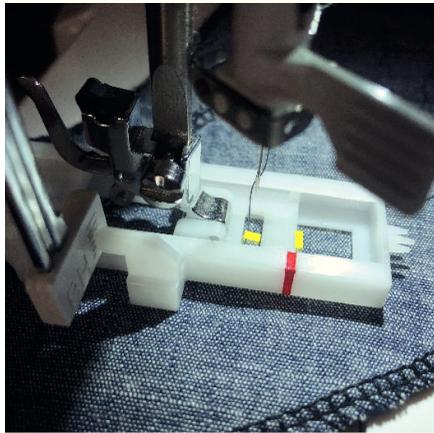
Step 4: Place the buttonhole foot on the machine with the button towards the back.



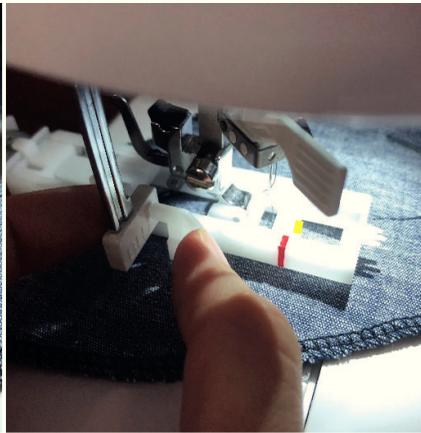
Step 5: There should be a guide that slides down when pulled. Pull this down and be sure it goes behind the plastic guide on the left side of the foot.



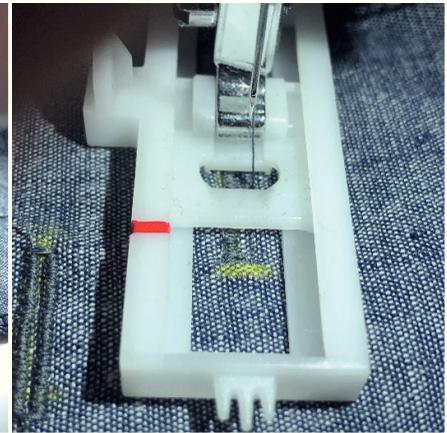
Step 6: Select the buttonhole stitch. Your machine will have different stitch numbers than mine since each machine is different.



Step 7: Do a test buttonhole first on a fabric scrap. Your buttonhole will mostly stitch backwards (some machines go forward a few stitches first as mine does). So starting at one end, align the red line with the end of your marked buttonhole. (the red line position will vary per different presser feet)



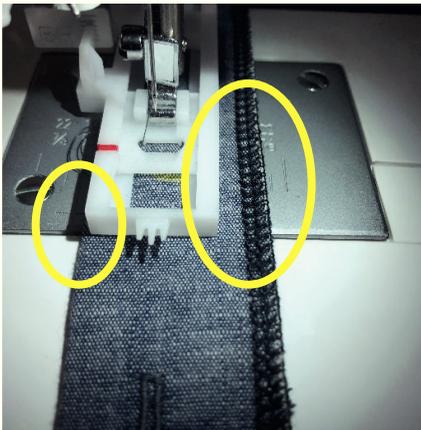
Step 8: Make sure the guide you pulled down is straight and not pulled by the fabric thickness before you put the presser foot down. You want the foot and guide to be relaxed. Give the guide and the foot a slight wiggle to make sure it's relaxed. (Ensure the red line matches the end of your buttonhole)



Step 9: Sew the buttonhole. Let the machine do the work. The feeder will move the fabric as needed. (In case your feeder is not moving the fabric due to a seam allowance bulkiness, see next image.)



Step 10: When your fabric is not totally flat due to seam allowances and your feeder is not moving the fabric, it's ok to give a slight tug in front/back just to get the fabric moving in order to start it. This should only be done if the feeder is not moving the fabric on its own.



Step 11: When you are doing multiple Buttonholes, remember the location of the presser foot in comparison to the edge of the fabric. Note the seam allowance line on the side to keep them all consistent distances.



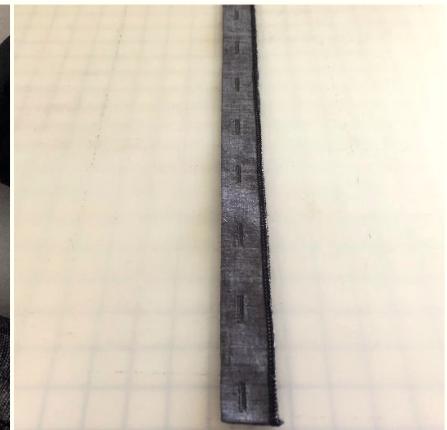
Step 12: For your reference, the buttonhole will be 1/8" longer than the width of the button. My button is 5/8", so the buttonhole is 3/4".



Step 13: Place a pin at the end of buttonhole to act as a stopper before cutting. Use your seam ripper to cut into the buttonhole. Stick it in the end, towards the center. I use an exacto knife (because I prefer this)



Step 14: Pull any loose fabric threads from the center of the buttonhole and trim.



Step 15: Your buttonholes should now be complete and look like this.

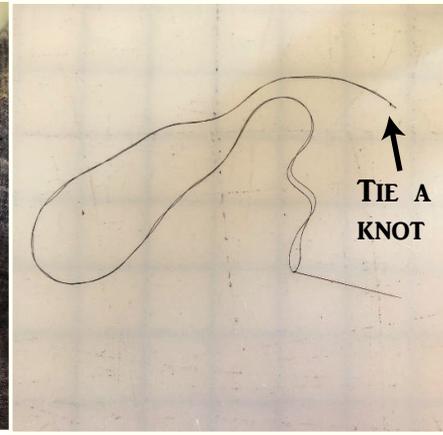
HOW TO SEW ON A BUTTON BY HAND



Step 1: Close the garment as you wish. If you have a placket like this, have a slight overlap of the placket. Place a pin towards the middle of the buttonhole. This will be the button position.



Step 2: Slide the buttonhole away from the pin.



Step 3: Thread a needle and tie a knot at the end. Trim down the ends after the knot.



Step 4: Loop the needle through the upper area of the pin you placed in step 1.



Step 5: Loop the needle through two diagonal points of the button.



Step 6: To make a "shank" (raise the button for more security), it's optional to use little match stick under the button and begin sewing the button on. You'll go through the holes at least 3 times for each pair of holes.



Step 7: Pull the match stick out. Then stick your needle through next to the button.



Step 8: Wrap the thread around the area where the match stick was. Do three wraps (not too tightly). This creates the "shank" so the button is raised slightly.



Step 9: Pick up a little fabric with the needle point, then wrap around the needle one full circumference the thread. This creates a self-knot. Do this a few times to secure the end of the thread.